

Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant Status Report

Date April 15, 2008

Team Chair(s): Barry Wilson

Team Name: Assessment Team

Narrative – Please describe the status of the team’s work toward its goal(s) at this time, recent strategies implemented, and next steps anticipated. Submit to Mary Beth Schroeder Fracek, Iowa Department of Education, marybeth.schroederfracek@iowa.gov

Work accomplished/strategies implemented since last report:

In the first half of this third year, we developed the RFP for assessment system grant awards. Our earlier survey of chairs and deans had indicated the awards have been very helpful and also documented continuing need for support. As this is the final year of the grant, the team has identified sustainability as a key new element to be addressed in year 3 proposals. We have, therefore, modified the language and criteria for the awards to reflect the need for applicants to show that the award will enable them to sustain the assessment system at the conclusion of grant support.

Our earlier survey also indicated that recipients felt that a longer window of grant supported activity would help contribute to sustainability as applicants who have received previous awards have felt rushed to inject too much activity into too short a time in order to garner needed resources. We have accordingly adjusted the window of time for grant supported activity to enable change that is better paced for the long haul.

Language in the community college applications for assessment awards was modified to better reflect the need for assessment focused at the course level that are well-articulated with performance outcomes expected by four-year programs. The initial announcement in year 2 made reference to program assessment. At present, community colleges do not have programs in teacher education thus are not expected to develop assessment systems to evaluate programs.

Next steps:

The Assessment Team will meet on May 9th from 10 AM to 2 PM to evaluate grant proposals submitted by the May 1 deadline. We will meet in Des Moines. Proposals will be assigned in advance to two readers. Proposals and scoring rubrics will be sent electronically to reviewers in advance of the meeting to maximize time for discussion and decision-making.

We also will discuss ways to facilitate communication and collaboration among those with assessment system responsibilities. We also want to facilitate sharing of assessment materials and ideas. We have also pledged to work with the dispositions team with respect to assessment implications.

TQE Assessment Team:

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Jackie Crawford, Simpson College
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Kacy Larson, North Iowa Area Community College
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